

SWARCER NEWS

August 2009

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE CHANGE

Because the usual meeting day falls on a holiday, Labor Day, the next meeting will be on the second Monday of September which is the 14th.

There will be some discussion and a presentation for proposed constitutional changes presented by our president, Tim Ruffin. Be sure to attend so that you hear about and ask questions regarding these changes.

See you there.

W1AW TO ADD NEW DIGITAL MODES TO SCHEDULE

After a survey of W1AW-listeners, W1AW will begin using two different modes on August 17, 2009.

W1AW will replace its AMTOR and ASCII transmissions with PSK31 and MFSK16, respectively. RTTY (Baudot) will continue to be the first digital mode used in the transmission schedule.

The frequencies used by W1AW for all its digital transmissions will remain the same. All regular 6 PM and 9 PM eastern time digital transmissions will begin with RTTY. PSK31 and MFSK16 will be sent as time allows.

The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will be sent using RTTY and PSK31.

The W1AW operating schedule -- complete with times and frequencies can be found on the ARRLWeb page at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Greetings;

New Public Service opportunity!

Sept. 19th-20th - 2009 Ride Without Limits. Just as last year, start & finish will be at Camp Kanata near Wake Forest. Will need about 15 Hams for SAG, Rest Stop, and Event Coordinator shadowing. Overnight accommodations in the Camper cabins available for all Hams, along with lot's o' food.

See our website at www.hampublicservice.org for more details.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on an event soon!

And remember: Ham Radio ***IS*** Public Service.

--

Bill Cole KG4CXY
Carolina Helping Hams

www.hampublicservice.org

Special Points of Interest

- Net nightly at 7:30 on the 147.195 repeater
- Tuesday night traders net at 8:00 PM on the 147.195 repeater
- Next meeting:
September 14, 2009 at 7PM FV Presbyteria-Church 307 N Ennis Street Fuquay-Varina
- The September premeeting meal will be Gino's grilled chicken. (Yumm)

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MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING BY JENNIFER AVERY - KI4TFO

SWARC MINUTES - August 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

SECRETARY: Motion was made to accept last month's minutes as written in the newsletter and posted

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's report is the same as was in the minutes of meeting from last month. The balance at the last meeting was \$964.20. We took in \$590 memberships, the 50/50 brought in \$24. We made a donation of \$75 for the farm we used for Field Day. As of July 7, 2009, the balance in our account is \$1,503.20

Motion to accept treasurer's report made and accepted.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Jack reported that he got the vests from Thomas. He received 6 size XL and 6 regular. He reported no upcoming events.

Selene stated that the EMS bike tour still looking for help in New Bern on September 12 and 13th. If anyone is available, please see the JARS website or Carolina Helping Hands website. They do background checks on all volunteers, so if you want to participate, please contact KD4ISC - Dick Orander from WARS early.

JOTA: Dave Caudle is working on the JOTA event. He's not getting responses back to his inquiries. We think it's in September but not sure what date it is. If we find out the date, we'll get it in the newsletter.

PRESIDENT: We need to adjust and amend some of the constitutional bylaws. Some members sent me some proposed changes. If you have a proposed constitutional change, email me in the next few weeks. We will have a board meeting and they will go through it and sift through the proposed changes.

HANK: Swap meet - the current date is October 3rd here in Fuquay somewhere. We just want a low key event, nothing to compete with anyone's ham fest. A Motion was made to use October 3rd for the swap meet which was passed.

FIELD DAY: Please contact Ryan if you can take over setting up Field Day.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS: Tim requested that Jim K9RII and Jim Williams W4VCF be in charge of fund raising projects.

Motion that the changes to constitution be tabled to next month's meeting

The next meeting will be 9/14 since the first Monday is Labor Day. Gino will be cooking chicken. We are asking people to bring sides.

50/50 collected: \$19

Meeting adjourned at 7:49PM

VANITY CALL SIGN FEES TO INCREASE

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40.

Now that notice of the increase has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009.

The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009,"

includes regulatory fees. These fees are expected to recover a total of \$341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates.

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" at,

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1>

SWARC FUND RAISER

It has been suggested that we have a raffle to raise some additional funds for the treasury. I would suggest a raffle ticket price of \$5. At this price we would need to sell between 40 and 60 tickets, depending on the cost of the item, in order to make it worth while, recover the cost and put some funds into the treasury.

I have compiled a list of items that might be of interest to our club members. These items normally sell some where between \$100 and \$175 dollars.

- 25 Amp Power Supply
- 2 Meter HT
- Dual Band HT (Yaesu)
- SWR/Power Meter (Diawa)
- Antenna Tuner (LDG-100)
- SighnaLink (psk)
- All Band Vertical Antenna (5BTV)
- Mobile 144/440 Antenna (Diamond)
- 144/440 Beam Antenna (Cushcraft)

Some less expensive items and ticket prices might be ARRL publications:

- ARRL Antenna Book
- ARRL Handbook

If you have an additional item that you would like to participate in by buying a raffle ticket, or other suggestions, please let me know.

Jim
Fund Raising Committee
W4VCF@arrl.net

AMAZING

Subject: Try to read this...

cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclyt uesdnatnrd waht I was rdgnieg

THE PAOMNNEHAL PWEOR OF THE HMUAN MNID

Aoccdnrig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny ipr-moatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

Amzanig huh?

THE TOWER PROJECT

I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my recent accident. In block number 3 of the accident reporting form, I put "poor planning" as the cause of the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust that the following details will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot antenna tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up' about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and hardware down by hand, I decided to lower the items in a small barrel by using a pulley which, fortunately, was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at the ground level, I went up to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and hardware into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope holding tightly to insure a slow decent of the 300 pounds and hardware. You will note in block 11 of the accident form that I weigh 155 pounds. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost the presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only

slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley at the top of the tower. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel hit the ground, and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools and hardware, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid decent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell into the pile of tools and hardware on the ground. Fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am now sorry to report, however that as I lay there on the tools and hardware, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope!

The name and call of the author has been omitted by request until all his medical claims have been paid by his insurance company. Also his insurance company is canceling his policy.

CQ MAGAZINE HF OPERATORS SURVIVAL GUIDE

Dear Fellow Ham,

Welcome to HF, the Heart of Ham Radio! There's something special, something magical, about this little slice of the electromagnetic spectrum. Sure, you can talk long distances using satellite links or internet links, but they've never been able to replace the sense of accomplishment, the pure joy, the fun, of sending a radio signal out into the air and having it come back down a half a world away.

Traditionally, the greatest allure of the HF bands is "working DX," or talking to stations in faraway places. In addition, these bands give you plenty of opportunities for talking to other hams around our own country, and even to your local neighbors. But with ten bands to choose from, and conditions that vary with time of day, time of year and time of the sunspot cycle, getting started can be pretty intimidating.

Our goal with this guide is to help answer some of the most common questions about HF operating and to help you choose the best radio, antenna, and bands for making the contacts you want. For additional information, we encourage you to read *CQ* magazine every month, and to visit our website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. But your best teachers are experience and your fellow hams. So get on the air, get involved with your local radio club, and most importantly—*have fun!*

73,



Rich Moseson, W2VU
Editor, *CQ* Magazine

HF ACTIVITY GUIDE

By Rich Moseson - W2VU

We've talked so far about what to expect from different HF bands, about operating phone (voice) and CW (code), and about making choices in equipment and antennas. Before we leave you to hit the airwaves on your own, we also wanted to introduce you to some of the specialized modes you'll find on HF, along with some of the most popular activities.

Specialized Modes

Most HF ham communications are conducted using single sideband (SSB) voice or Morse code. In addition, there are specialized modes on HF, such as ham TV, AM, FM, and even keyboard-to-keyboard and digital voice communication.

Ham TV—You won't find full-motion amateur television on HF (a typical TV signal is broader than any of our HF ham bands), but you will find *slow-scan* TV, or SSTV, in which still pictures are sent one frame at a time, and bandwidth is no greater than an SSB voice signal. Most SSTV activity is on 20 meters.

AM—While SSB is the predominant voice mode on HF, some hams are still in love with the rich, full, sound of AM signals. You'll find most AM activity on the 160-meter and 80-meter bands.

FM—FM voice signals are too wide for most HF bands, but they are permitted on 10 meters, above 29 MHz. Here, you'll find four pairs of FM repeater frequencies and an FM simplex fre-

quency (29.600 MHz), where you can enjoy the combined benefits of FM audio and 10-meter propagation.

Keyboard Modes—Hams invented text-messaging decades ago, and computers with sound cards breathed new life into these keyboard-to-keyboard modes, such as radioteletype (RTTY), and encouraged the development of new ones, such as PSK-31. There's digital activity on every HF ham band (except 60 meters), generally near the upper end of the CW segment in each band.

Digital Voice—Digital voice is among the newest modes making its presence known on HF. Outboard modems are used to translate analog voice from a microphone into a digital signal no wider than a traditional SSB signal. It is changed back to analog voice at the other end. Most activity right now uses the G4GUO protocol or WinDRM, the ham version of the European digital broadcasting standard, Digital Radio Mondiale. Watch for growth in this area over the coming decade.

On-Air Activities

DXing—This is the "glamour" part of ham radio, talking with people in far away places, from remote islands to Antarctica to the mountains of South America. It is the part of ham radio that attracts the greatest number of people to the hobby, and is the glue that binds us all together. Two other aspects of ham radio that are intimately tied to DXing are

HF ACTIVITY GUIDE

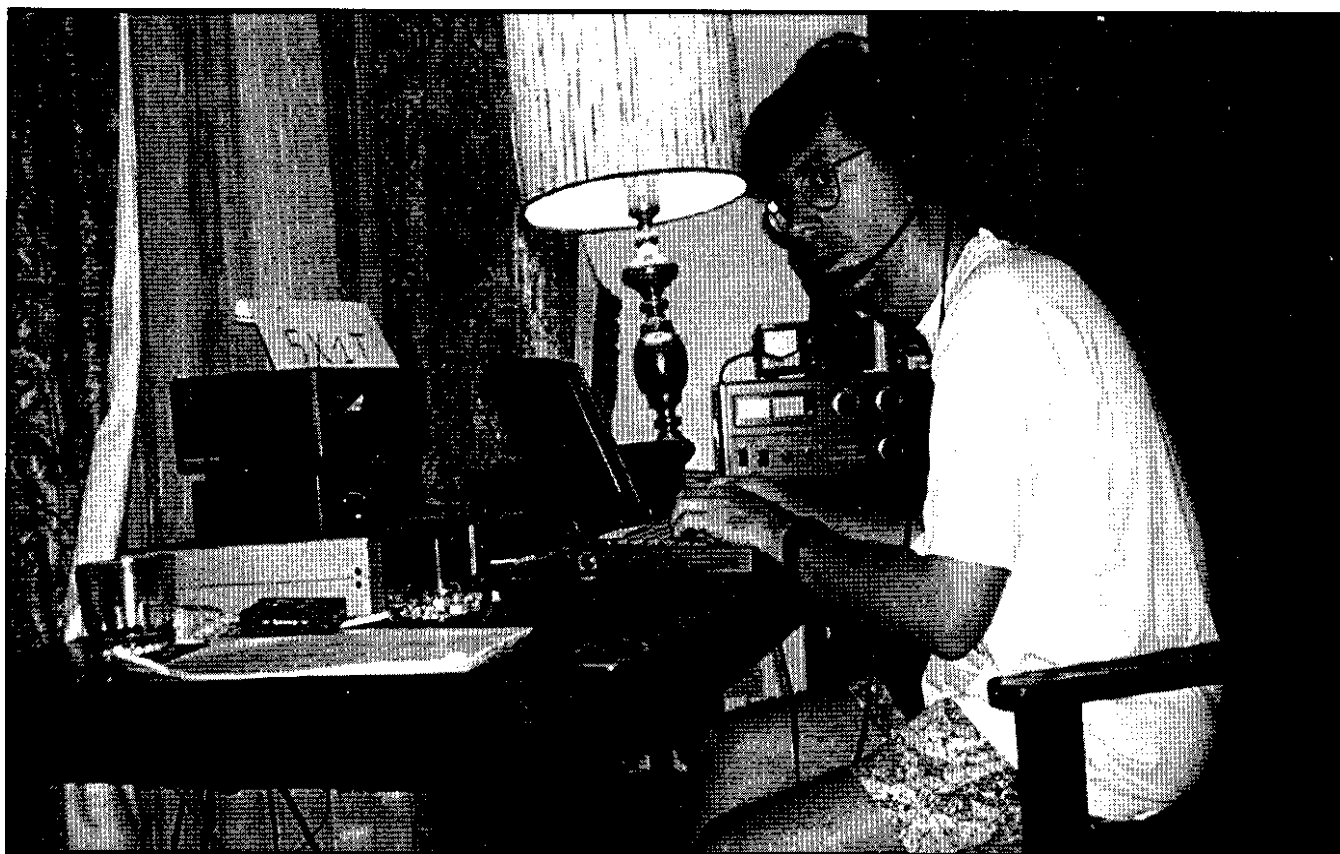
By Rich moseson - W2VU

Rag-Chewing—This is perhaps the most common activity on any ham band ... just talking, with old friends or new, about just about anything. Ask any experienced ham what he or she has found most rewarding about amateur radio overall, and the chances are very good the answer will be people -the opportunity to make friends all over the world and to keep in touch with friends no matter where they are.

Nets and Public Service—You may be familiar with on-air networks ("nets") and providing public service and emergency communications on VHF and UHF. These same activities occur on HF as well, particularly when long-distance communications is required. In addition to the many public-service oriented nets on HF, you can find nets devoted to nearly any subject that's of interest to two or more people.

Competition and Recognition

Contesting—Many people are competitive by nature, and hams are no exception. Several weekends a year, the bands come alive with signals from all corners of the globe, as on-air contests produce a huge upsurge in activity, all with a single goal—to contact as many people as you can, in as many different places as you can, within a set time period. There is at least one contest of some sort on the air nearly every weekend of the year, from state "QSO parties" (you try to contact as many counties as you can in a given state) to mega-DX contests which fill the bands from wall to wall with signals from everywhere. There are contests focused on single bands (such as the CQ 160-Meter Contest or the ARRL 10-Meter Contest), single modes (such as a variety of RTTY contests and separate CW and SSB weekends in the major DX contests) or other criteria that make each contest unique.



Dxpeditions are a very popular HF activity, both among the hams who visit remote locations – such as Peter, ON6TT, picture here, operating from Uganda as 5X1T – and especially among the thousands of hams who compete to make contact with these temporary station setups.

HF ACTIVITY GUIDE

By Rich moseson - W2VU

There is an informal agreement that contesting is limited to the "traditional" HF bands of 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters, with the newer bands of 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters being "contest-free zones," where non-contesters may operate without interference, even on the busiest contest weekends.

CQ is proud to sponsor a variety of contests, including the world's two most popular on-air competitions, the CQ World Wide DX Contest and the CQ World Wide WPX Contest. Each of these contests has separate weekends for SSB, CW and RTTY. In addition, CQ sponsors the CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest, the CQ World Wide VHF Contest and the CQ World Wide Foxhunting Weekend. To get your feet wet, we suggest starting out with one of the smaller contests, such as a state QSO party, or a group event, such as the ARRL's Field Day.

Award-Chasing—Operating in contests is a good way to get your start in earning an unending variety of certificates and awards for on-air accomplishments. They range from certificates for contacting members of a certain radio club to the "gold standard" of operating awards, the ARRL's DX Century Club (DXCC) and CQ's Worked All Zones (WAZ) awards.

CQ sponsors four major award programs: The CQ DX Award program, which includes the traditional CQ DX Awards, the CQ DX Field Awards, the CQ iDX Award and the CQ DX Honor Roll; the CQ Worked All Zones award program, the CQ WPX Award program, and the USA-All Counties Award (USA-CA). In addition, the CQ DX Marathon, which runs throughout each year, is half award, half contest.

QSLing—The "currency" used for determining award eligibility is the QSL card. Traditionally, this is a postcard containing your callsign, name, address and other information, as well as space for information about a contact with another station. A QSL serves as proof that two stations made contact over the air, and you need to have a certain number of

proven, qualified, contacts in order to earn most operating awards.

Today, there are online alternatives to the traditional QSL card, such as the "eQSL" service and the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW). However, these non-traditional confirmations are not universally accepted, so check with the award sponsor before submitting contacts confirmed online.

One reason these online services have emerged is that QSLing can be very expensive, especially overseas. To help control costs, some DX stations have "QSL managers" in the U.S. who send out their cards in exchange for a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). These managers are sometimes listed on a DX ham's page on the qrz.com or hamcall.net websites. In addition, most national amateur radio societies have set up "QSL bureaus" for bulk exchange of cards among stations in other countries. In the U.S., the ARRL offers an outgoing QSL service—for cards going outside the U.S. only—as a member benefit, and an incoming QSL bureau service staffed by volunteers in each call area. You do not need to be an ARRL member to use the incoming bureaus, but you do need to register and provide either stamped envelopes or a cash payment to cover the cost of mailing your cards to you. In addition, certain other organizations sponsor specialized QSL bureaus for their members.

There are reasons beyond awards for exchanging QSL cards. First, it is said that a QSL is the final courtesy of a QSO. Second, a QSL card collection is a permanent record of your ham radio contacts. Finally, many cards are very beautiful and/or personalized and a collection of them over the years often becomes a treasured part of your personal ham radio history.

And Finally...

We hope this guide has been helpful to you in getting started in HF hamming. Now we have a request of you: Once you're comfortable on the bands, having fun and (hopefully) working whomever you'd like, please keep your ears open for the next generation of newcomers to HF. Talk to them. Be friendly, be helpful, be encouraging, and do your best to set a good example.

SKYWARN INFORMATION NETS & UPCOMING EVENTS

As posted on <http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net/>

Every Tuesday at 9:15PM on the 146.88 repeater



CAROLINA HELPING HAMS

No events listed.

More details and sign-up information can be found on links from the Ham public service calendar at: www.hampublicservice.org

UPCOMING HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS

Shelby Hamfest
September 5th & 6th
Shelby Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>
Talk-In: 146.88 & 147.12
Dallas, NC
Gaston County Park
[1301 Dallas-Cherryville Highway](#)

Pfafftown Swapfest
October 10th
Forsyth Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.w4nc.com>
Talk-In: 146.64 (PL 100) or 145.47 (PL 100)
Pfafftown, NC
West Central Community Center (WCCC)
[6130 Yadkinville Road](#)

UPCOMING ARRL EVENTS

2009 September VHF QSO Party
September 12 & 13

For details and rules see:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sepvhf.html>

SELL AND TRADE

I have 17 inch monitor by HP That my daughter wants to sell. See bought a new HP 20 inch flat screen monitor She just did not have room any more for the large one. It works 100% perfectly and was not ever abused. Its like new. She would like \$25.00 for it.

Jack WA2YBM..... 919-762-1857 or villager @nc.rr.com

LINKS OF INTEREST



South Wake ARC Club website: <http://www.southwakearc.com/>

South Wake ARC Yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/southwakearc/>



Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network: <http://pcrn.net/>

Carolina 440 linked system: <http://www.carolina440.net/>



Central Carolina Skywarn: <http://www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net/>

SouthEastern Repeater Association: <http://www.sera.org/>



Wake County CERT: <http://www.wakecountycert.org/>

Wake County ARES/RACES: <http://www.wakeares.org/>



ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/>

FCC Universal Licensing System: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>



Hamfest calendar: <http://k4hm.net/calendar.php>

NC Canine Emergency Response Team: <http://www.nccert.org/>



Capital Area Radio Testing Group: <http://www.cartgroup.org>

TRIANGLE EAST AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION 2009 VE SESSION SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION!

The Triangle East Amateur Radio Association (TEARA) is pleased to announce its 2009 schedule for amateur radio examinations. Exams are given the third Saturday of every month except July and December at 9:30 a.m. at the Red Cross office in Smithfield, North Carolina. The Red Cross is located at 801 South Third Street in downtown Smithfield. Additional directions are and a map link are given below.

For 2009, the dates are:

*** No session in July
August 15
September 19
October 17
November 21
*** No session in December

For more information go to: <http://teara-ve.ka4puv.com/>

SOUTH WAKE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Address	Officers			
PO Box 1565 Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526	President:	Tim Ruffin	W4TAR	timruffin@earthlink.net
	Vice President:	Steve Mowels	KA0GMY	ka0gmy@bellsouth.net
	Secretary:	Jennifer Avery	KI4TFO	jennavery@charter.net
	Treasurer:	Donn Harris	NC4DH	nc4dh@embarqmail.com
	Membership Director:	Ryan Avery	AI4WF	ai4wf@nc.rr.com
	Director at Large:	Jim Williams	W4VCF	w4vcf@arrl.net
	Director at Large:	Jim Young	K9RII	mentor7388@hotmail.com

Public Service Through Amateur Radio

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.